

# McARTHUR ENQUIRER

From the Christian Witness.

Temperance.

What an excellent thing is temperance. We see the need of it every day; the young and old visit the dram shop and other places of merriment, and intemperance every day. At playing cards and other games of cheat they are always ready to lend a helping hand. When passing by those houses we may often hear the bitter curses from within, by which some fancy themselves "insulted," drink to excess, begin to quarrel, then come to blows, which sometimes results in the death of one or more of the parties concerned. What a wretched state, what an awful thing it must be to be ushered into the presence of the great judge in this wretched condition, without any preparations for eternity.

What a necessity for temperance. We can scarcely look into a book or paper for a moment, without seeing an account of some awful deed committed by persons in a state of intoxication. We have seen the only son of a poor widow, in whom she placed all her hopes for future protection, take to drinking, contract disease, and soon fill a drunkard's grave. He leaves his poor mother to weep over the loss of one of the sons of intertemperance. We have seen a husband leave his wife and little ones at home, without a morsel of bread, for the dramshop, drink to excess, reel, and fall upon the street, and there remain until he is able to go home, and when he arrives, he abuses his wife and children, because they have not prepared something for him to eat, when it was not in their power to get it. We have seen a sister beg of her brother to leave off drinking, and he refused. We have seen that brother brought low by sickness, and when too late, we have heard him beg of that sister to pray for him, and at last that brother has filled a drunkard's grave.

Miss Ruth Conrow.

(From the Boston Herald.)

A Woman Born July 4, 1776.

Miss Lucy Langdon Nowell, was born in Alfred, July 4, 1776, on the day and very near the hour of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. When eight years of age, she united with the Alfred Shakers, and has since lived with them. When eighty-four years of age she wove thirty-four yards of cloth, and at ninety-six knit ten pairs of mittens. She has never been in a railroad-car, and is in excellent health. If she lives until 1876 a Pullman palace car will be despatched to her native town to transport her to Boston. From thence she will be carried direct to the Quaker City, where her presence will be one of the features of the grand centennial.

The Mint at Philadelphia under orders from Washington is coining double eagles at the rate of \$10,000,000 a month. The California Mint is running at its full capacity on gold coinage and the trade dollar Bullion to the amount of \$3,000,000 has been added to the fund of the Assay Office at New York to pay promptly all deposits of sovereigns.

What can be better than a woman with a cataract in her eye, a waterfall on her head, a creek in her back, forty springs in her skirt, and high-tied shoes? Why, one with a notion in her head, and swimming in tears.

The United States steamer, Ossipee, conveying the monitor, Mohopac, has arrived from the Norfolk Navy-yard at Fortress Monroe, and both are anchored off the fort.

# A Mother's Christmas Present.

THE TWO BIBLES.

BY J. PRESLEY BARRETT.

OF SUFFOLK, VA.

In a beautiful little town in Eastern Virginia there lives a family, consisting of father, mother and two children—a son and daughter. They are not wealthy; yet they are very rich—not wealthy in worldly goods—yet rich in grace. It is a custom, which has long prevailed in this country, as well as in others, for parents to present their children, on the morning of the 25th of December, of each year, with many pretty things. The wealthy people made their little ones very gay by giving them torpedoes, fire-crackers, Roman candles, sky rockets, &c.; but this mother thought that these things would not profit her children, but would rather tend to make them worse children. Yet she wished to make her children happy by giving them a present on Christmas morning. Still she wished to give them something that would make them better children—children of God. So, on Christmas-morning she purchased two copies of the Word of God, to present to her children—Eddie and Julia—on Christmas morning. Early on the 25th they were up to receive the gifts. But the gifts were not fine trinkets to pass away in a day; but a guide Book to guide them to their endless rest. They were lifted up in heart, and loved their mother better than ever for having given them so precious a gift—one that would lead them to God. Surely this was a valuable present to Eddie and Julia, a present, the beauty of which will not be lost when all this earth shall cease to shine, and the pale-faced moon shall be blotted out, and the twinkling little (as they appear to be) stars shall sparkle no more—then the beauty of their mother's present will out-shine all these glittering orbs of time, and will stand forth the glory of the Kingdom of God. Certainly this far exceeded the gifts of wealthy parents to their children. Besides the results were so good. Eddie and Julie both are now little Christians. They are kind to their parents, and always before retiring they kneel and pray God to pardon their sins, to bless their parents, to confirm their hope they have in Christ Jesus, and to strengthen them in grace continually. Thus they are preparing for a land of rest, by the instructions of a mother's present, while many others of wealthy parents are hurrying themselves to a pit of misery, and that too by the help of the presents which their parents gave them.

Some of my little readers may not understand how they are going to a pit of misery by the help of presents from their wealthy parents. Well, you see, their parents bought torpedoes, fire-crackers, &c., for them, which put them in mischief, and then they took the downward road to ruin. Thus many parents send their children to ruin by trying to make them "a man" instead of trying to make them a Christian. Now why not make children's Christmas presents characteristic of the birth of Christ, and learn them to be Christians, rather than give them presents characteristic of the world and learn them to be worldly? Remember, parents, that you should make your children Christians, before they are men and women; for, as the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined.

ESTIMATE of hogs packed this season to 20 inst.: Chicago, 583,000; Cincinnati 410,000; St. Louis, 310,000; Louisville, 230,000; Indianapolis, 200,000.

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